

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (presently amended) A process for preparing N-methyldialkylamines from secondary dialkylamines or diarylalkylamines and formaldehyde at a temperature of from 100 to 200°C, which comprises using from 1.5 to 3 mol of formaldehyde per mole of secondary dialkylamine, or diarylalkylamines, degassing the resulting reaction product, removing the aqueous phase and distilling the organic phase.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 1.5 to 2.5 mol of formaldehyde are used per mole of secondary dialkylamine.

Claim 3 (presently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~operation~~ the reaction is effected at a temperature ~~from~~ from 120 to 160°C.

Claim 4 (presently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary dialkylamines or diarylalkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyls ~~groups each having from~~ of 2 to 20 carbon atoms or having arylalkyls ~~groups each having from~~ of 7 to 15 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (presently amended) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the secondary dialkylamines or diarylalkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical

cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyls ~~groups each having from~~ of 2 to 15 carbon atoms, ~~preferably from~~ 2 to 9 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dialkylamine is di-n-butylamine or di-n-propylamine.

Claim 7 (newly presented) The process of claim 5 wherein the alkyls have 2 to 9 carbon atoms.